

My name is Laura Roxbury, and I am a voter from Chaplin, CT. Passing SB 184 and HB 5262 is important to me because our democracy works best when we make it easier for voters to participate in the election process. In the 2020 general election, there was an 80% voter turnout, and I believe this is because we made it easier and safer for voters to fulfill their civic duty.

I moved here from Oklahoma in 2017 and was shocked to learn that Connecticut did not offer no-excuse absentee voting (or time off from work to vote!). Oklahoma has had no-excuse absentee voting for years. I voted in my first presidential election at 18 by absentee ballot! Oklahoma is noted for its secure elections and the rate of ballot fraud there is miniscule. I still can't believe that Connecticut -- which I always believed was far more progressive than Oklahoma -- would have more restrictive access to voting.

A family friend recently passed away from COVID. Although she was vaccinated and had a booster shot, she was a cancer survivor whose compromised immune system could not protect her. In light of the continued threat to people like her due to the pandemic, the very least the State can do is to make it safe and convenient for people to vote by extending absentee balloting.

I urge you to pass these bills -- and don't stop there. Make no-excuse absentee voting a permanent option. That would make voting more accessible to citizens with limited mobility, single parents who work multiple jobs, and others who face impediments to voting in person.

Sincerely,  
Laura Roxbury